

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To assist Tribal entities in deploying broadband using the 2.5 GHz spectrum band.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To assist Tribal entities in deploying broadband using the 2.5 GHz spectrum band.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Internet Development
5 for Tribes Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF 2.5 GHZ SPECTRUM BAND BY TRIBAL ENTI-**
7 **TIES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
10 Communications Commission;

1 (2) the term “covered license” means a license
2 acquired in the Rural Tribal Priority Window;

3 (3) the term “covered licensee” means the hold-
4 er of a covered license; and

5 (4) the term “Rural Tribal Priority Window”
6 means the priority filing window for Tribal entities
7 to obtain licenses for spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band
8 established in the Report and Order in the matter
9 of Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band adopted by the
10 Commission on July 10, 2019 (FCC 19–62).

11 (b) PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL LICENSES.—The
12 Commission may not—

13 (1) impose any build-out or performance re-
14 quirement on a covered licensee; or

15 (2) cancel or terminate a covered license if a
16 covered licensee fails to meet any construction or
17 performance benchmark.

18 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a covered
20 licensee, the Commission shall provide technical as-
21 sistance and guidance regarding the most effective
22 use of the 2.5 GHz band for wireless and broadband
23 services, including with respect to—

24 (A) infrastructure acquisition and develop-
25 ment;

1 (B) digital literacy services;

2 (C) managerial best practices; and

3 (D) how to expedite the deployment of
4 broadband.

5 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—The
6 Commission shall award technical assistance grants
7 to covered licensees, on a competitive basis, to obtain
8 assistance in identifying financial resources, improv-
9 ing broadband functions, increasing digital literacy,
10 and acquiring professional consultation related to
11 use of the 2.5 GHz band.

12 (d) EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION GRANTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall award
14 grants to covered licensees, on a competitive basis,
15 for the acquisition of appropriate equipment and
16 services related to use of the 2.5 GHz band, includ-
17 ing—

18 (A) appropriate backhaul infrastructure
19 and edge devices;

20 (B) educational equipment, such as
21 laptops;

22 (C) installment of equipment (other than
23 educational equipment) or required permitting
24 and right-of-way services; and

1 (D) any other type of equipment or service
2 identified by the Commission in consultation
3 with the Office of Native Affairs and Policy of
4 the Commission and the Native Nations Com-
5 munications Task Force.

6 (2) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant awarded
7 under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of 2 years.

8 (3) APPLICATION.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, a covered licensee
10 seeking a grant under paragraph (1) shall submit an
11 application to the Commission in such manner, and
12 containing such information, as the Commission may
13 require.

14 (4) CONSULTATION.—In developing the grant
15 program under this subsection, including criteria for
16 applications under paragraph (3), the Commission
17 shall consult with the Office of Native Affairs and
18 Policy of the Commission and the Native Nations
19 Communications Task Force.

20 (e) SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.—

21 (1) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-
23 troller General of the United States shall assess and
24 submit to Congress a report on whether the Federal

1 Government possesses any surplus equipment that
2 can be used to access the 2.5 GHz band.

3 (2) TRANSFER TO FCC.—If the Comptroller
4 General finds under paragraph (1) that the Federal
5 Government possesses surplus equipment that can
6 be used to access the 2.5 GHz band—

7 (A) each Federal agency that is found to
8 have such surplus equipment shall transfer the
9 equipment to the Commission; and

10 (B) the Commission shall distribute the
11 equipment to covered licensees to aid the licens-
12 ees in deploying broadband service using the
13 2.5 GHz band.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Commission—

16 (1) \$25,000,000 for technical assistance grants
17 under subsection (c)(2); and

18 (2) \$100,000,000 for equipment acquisition
19 grants under subsection (d).